



CAPACITY 70000

# THE EAST BROAD TOP RAILROAD



Take a trip back to the early 1900's when steam ruled the rails. Hear the whistles blow as the train makes its way down the track where coal was once king. With its truly unique shop complex, nearly 100-year-old station, and early 20th century motive power, the East Broad Top Railroad is a must-see with something for everyone.

Founded in 1856, East Broad Top began as one of many narrow gauge railways carrying lumber, ore, coal, and passengers. Old number 14 puffed and snorted between Mount Union and Woodvale for several decades, but by 1956, the EBT was the last operating narrow gauge steam line east of the Mississippi. The railroad was forced to shut down that same year due to slumping coal demand and competition from roadways.

That's when the Kovalchick Salvage Company of Indiana, PA purchased the EBT chose to preserve the railway for future generations. In 1960 the first tourist train was run. Named a National Historic Landmark in 1964, the EBT is also the most complete railroad site in North America.

Come to the East Broad Top RR and ride behind an original narrow gauge locomotive which once hauled coal back and forth on the very same tracks nearly a hundred years earlier. Sit in seats that once reserved for the company president. Ride in the cupola of the caboose and get a real feeling for what it was like back in the days when coal was king.

## COME RIDE THE EAST BROAD TOP RR

*The Last Eastern Narrow Gauge Steam Railroad*

# THE EAST BROAD TOP RAILROAD

## a brief history

The East Broad Top Railroad & Coal Company (EBT) was originally chartered on April 16, 1856 to mine and transport coal from rich fields of Broad Top Mountain. Due to lack of funding, however, the railroad did not become a reality until fifteen years later when the Rockhill Iron & Coal Company (RIC) was incorporated. The founders, a group of Philadelphia businessmen, bought a controlling interest in EBT stock, and made plans to construct a narrow gauge railway. The line was opened from Mt. Union to Rockhill Furnace on August 30, 1873, and was completed in 1874 to the company town of Robertsdale which was developing around Rockhill No. 1 Mine. In 1891, the tracks were extended to a new mine at Woodvale. Trains made several daily runs to Mt. Union where coal was transferred to the standard gauge cars of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

At Rockhill, the company built an extensive shops complex and engine house. With its steam-generated and belt-driven machinery, the EBT was almost totally self-sufficient, maintaining its rolling stock and constructing its own freight cars. As the railroad prospered, passenger service was expanded to include public excursions as well as transport of miners. In the early 1900's, the trackage and bridges were substantially rebuilt, including an early concrete arch railway bridge. A new building was constructed to house the EBT offices and a passenger station, which bears the name of the neighboring town of Orbisonia.

In 1919, the EBT was purchased by Madeira, Hill & Company (MHC). At Mt. Union, MHC established a coal cleaning plant and a "timber transfer." Originally, the timber transfer was used to transfer wood from narrow to standard gauge cars. Later, the timber transfer was used to change the trucks under standard gauge cars to move on the EBT rails. In 1938, after MHC's bankruptcy, bondholders reorganized the company as the Rockhill Coal Company. After World War II, rising labor costs, crippling strikes, diminishing coal deposits and a decreasing market took their toll on the EBT. Finally, in April 1956, the last coal run was made to Mt. Union.

Soon after closing, the Kovalchick Salvage Company of Indiana, PA bought the railroad and all its assets. In 1960, passenger service was restored to celebrate the bicentennials of Orbisonia and Rockhill. The EBT was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964 and remains the only original 3' narrow gauge railroad still operating in the East.

## Ticket Fares, Hours & Schedule & Directions

### Ticket Fares

Coach: Adult \$10.00, Child (2-11 yrs) \$7.00 (add \$1 for First Class or Caboose)  
All Day Pass: Adult \$28.00, Child (2-11 yrs) \$20.00  
Group Rate; Coach: Adult \$9.50, Child (2-11 yrs) \$6.50 (add \$1 for First Class or Caboose)

Children under 2 years of age ride free.  
Attention: The EBT does not accept credit cards at this time.  
Shop Tours are available for groups of 20 or more for \$7.00 each.

**PLEASE VISIT  
THE E.B.T. WEBSITE**

For info on upcoming events, up-to-date news, more history, photos, equipment roster, area accommodations, many other local attractions, and other details about the railroad, visit

**WWW.EBTRR.COM**

### Hours and Schedule:

The EBT is open to tourists on Saturdays and Sundays from the first weekend in June through the last weekend in October. Steam trains depart Orbisonia Station at 11 am, 1 pm, and 3 pm. The gift shop inside the station is open from 10:00 am to 4:20 pm. Your relaxing ride through fields and forests will last about 1 hour.

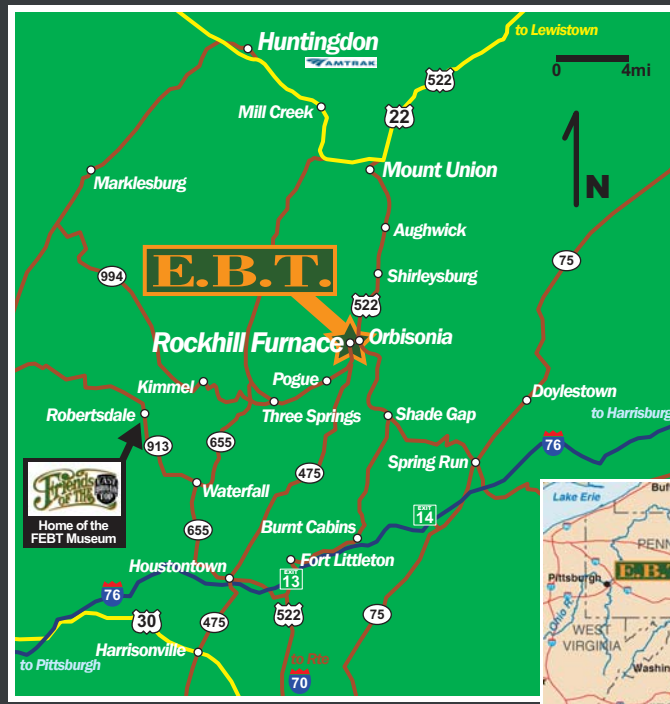
### Directions

#### From I80

From west or east, take exit 161 and follow Rt. 26 south to Huntingdon. Next, take Rt. 22 East to Mt. Union. At Mt. Union, take a right onto Rt. 522 south to Orbisonia. At the traffic light, take a right hand turn onto Rt. 994 across the Blacklog Creek. Within a few tenths of a mile you will see the Orbisonia station on your right and the roundhouse and shops on your left.

#### From the PA Turnpike

From west or east, take exit 180 at Ft. Littleton. Follow Rt. 522 north to Orbisonia. At the traffic light, take a left onto Rt. 994 across the Blacklog Creek. Within a few tenths of a mile you will see the Orbisonia station on your right and the roundhouse and shops on your left.



### Approximate

### Travel Times

Altoona, PA 1.5hr  
Harrisburg, PA 1.5hr  
Strasburg, PA 2.5hr  
Pittsburgh, PA 3hr  
Washington, DC 3hr  
Baltimore, MD 3hr  
Philadelphia, PA 3.5hr  
Scranton, PA 4hr  
New York, NY 5hr  
Columbus, OH 5.5hr  
Cleveland, OH 5.5hr  
Detroit, MI 8.5hr  
Raleigh, NC 8.5hr  
Boston, MA 9hr  
Montreal, QC 11hr  
Chicago, IL 11.5hr  
St. Louis, MO 14hr  
Memphis, TN 17hr



# RIDE THE EAST BROAD TOP RR

The oldest operating narrow gauge steam railroad in the USA